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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/756,770	01/14/2004	Jung Ho Kang	040008-0307595	1519
909	7590	05/01/2006	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP			STOCK JR, GORDON J	
P.O. BOX 10500			ART UNIT	
MCLEAN, VA 22102			PAPER NUMBER	
			2877	

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/756,770

Applicant(s)

KANG, JUNG HO

Examiner

Gordon J. Stock

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040506.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The Drawings received on January 14, 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on May 6, 2004 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Seo, S. R.** (abstract and figure of KR 2001001224 A) in view of **Yagi (5,899,792)**.

As for **claim 1**, Seo discloses a method of inspecting errors on a wafer (line 1 of novelty), comprising collecting standard data for thickness of the layer formed on the wafer and collecting standard data for a color image of the wafer and making a library, a database, by matching standard data embodied by reference data corresponding to both reference color image and thickness of the layer formed on the wafer (lines 14-18 of detailed description); inspecting the

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layer with the library through comparing comparison data and the reference data in the database (lines 19-21 of detailed description). Seo discloses wafer surface is inspected (line 7 of detailed description); he is silent concerning an insulating layer. However, Yagi in a wafer processing apparatus teaches that wafer insulating layers that exhibit steps cause dielectric breakdown and a high leakage current (col. 1, lines 30-35). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to inspect the insulating layer of a wafer to ensure that the insulating surface is planar to ensure a lack of dielectric breakdown and low leakage current in the wafer.

As for **claim 2**, Seo in view of Yagi discloses everything as above (see **claim 1**). In addition, Seo discloses the thickness standard data is for a particular region of the wafer, the surface layer formed on the wafer (lines 17-18 of detailed description).

As for **claim 3**, Seo in view of Yagi discloses everything as above (see **claim 1**). In addition, Seo discloses the standard data for the optic image is for a particular region of the wafer, the surface (lines 14-16 of detailed description).

As for **claim 4**, Seo in view of Yagi discloses everything as above (see **claim 1**). Seo does not explicitly state that the optic image of the standard data is analog or digital, but he suggests it for the inspection image is digital (lines 11-13). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the optical image standard data was digital in order to compare it to the digital image of the inspected image.

As for **claim 5**, Seo in view of Yagi discloses everything as above (see **claim 1**). In addition, Seo discloses that each optic image, each color image, for a region by a thickness is

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determined (lines 15-18 of detailed description); wherein, a continuous image library is constructed, a database of the wafer surface (lines 15-18 of detailed description).

Fax/Telephone Numbers

If the applicant wishes to send a fax dealing with either a proposed amendment or a discussion with a phone interview, then the fax should:

- 1) Contain either a statement "DRAFT" or "PROPOSED AMENDMENT" on the fax cover sheet; and
- 2) Should be unsigned by the attorney or agent.

This will ensure that it will not be entered into the case and will be forwarded to the examiner as quickly as possible.

Papers related to the application may be submitted to Group 2800 by Fax transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO Fax machine located in Crystal Plaza 4. The form of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CP4 Fax Machine number is: (571) 273-8300

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gordon J. Stock whose telephone number is (571) 272-2431.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr., can be reached at 571-272-2800 ext 77.

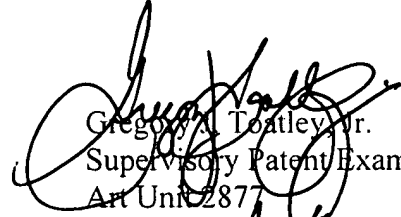
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private Pair system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gs

April 24, 2006


Gregory A. Toatley, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
26 April 2006